
04-17 For Immediate Release

Contact: Holly Kulinski, Public Affairs Officer (715)-362-1354

Hunters should be aware of ATV policy changes on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis. – September 14, 2004. Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest officials remind ATV users of recent policy changes that took effect on June 15, 2004 with the implementation of the revised Forest Plan.

As we move into the fall season, hunters who use ATVs should note that no off-road or off-trail ATV use is permitted. This means hunters must walk from the road or trail to their hunting area. It also means that ATVs cannot be used off-road/off-trail to transport bait or retrieve game.

In the past, the Forest had two different ATV policies. The Chequamegon side was mostly open to ATV use while the Nicolet side was closed. The revised Forest Plan has one consistent policy for the entire National Forest. This new policy allows ATVs only on designated routes and trails.

ATV use on designated trails is allowed on the Chequamegon side of the Forest. Roads that were open to use in the past will remain open until a process is completed to locate and sign all future open roads, which is expected to take one to two years. Once completed, only those roads that have open signs will be available for ATV use.

The Nicolet side of the Forest does not have any immediate ATV opportunities. ATVs will be allowed once site-specific trail and route planning and construction are completed. The revised Forest Plan allows for up to 185 miles of additional trails for the entire National Forest.

For further information on ATV opportunities at your hunting destination, contact your local Forest Service offices in Eagle River, Florence, Hayward, Glidden, Lakewood, Laona, Medford, Park Falls, and Washburn.

--end--